APEENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 452 asked by Sri P. G. Manickam at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 29th March 1958 page 209 supra.]

Subject.—Regarding decisions reached at the Conference of the Officials of the Food Department in regard to the Food Situation and 'Steps taken to implement them.

(*a*) Decisions reached at the Conference of the Officials of Food Department held in December 1957, in regard to food situation.

A.—In a Conference held on the 3rd December 1957, the food situation was discussed and the following suggestions were considered in the course of the discussion, to augment food production.

A. Food Production.

(1) To accelerate the minor irrigation works;

(2) to supply adequate quantities of fertilizers, manures, improved seeds, pesticides and insecticides;

(3) to liberalise loan rules for the purchase of seeds; fertilizers, etc.;

(4) to encourage improved agricultural practices such as Japanese method of cultivation;

(5) to fix targets in Community Development and National Extension Service areas and to reach them.

B. Foodgrains Distribution.

(6) To encourage production of short-term crops as pulses, potatoes, etc.;

(7) to reduce rice consumption by popularising non-rice dishes in hotels, restaurants, Government institutions, etc.;

(*b*) Steps taken to implement the decisions.

A.—These suggestions were commended to the Government Departments concerned for action. The Departments concerned have taken action as detailed below :—

(1) *Minor irrigation.*—The Government of India have since sanctioned a loan of Rs. 7·5 lakhs for financing the capital cost of the scheme for the purchase and distribution of oil engines and electric motor pumpsets. Continuance of the scheme during 1957–58 will be sanctioned shortly by the State Government. Regarding private irrigation works, the report called for from the Board of Revenue (Food Production) is awaited.

(2) *Fertilizers, manures, improved seeds, insecticides and pesticides.*—The Commissioner of Food Production reported that only 50 per cent of the current year's quota of ammonium sulphate

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has been supplied by the Government of India. Action is being pursued to get the balance quantity also expeditiously. The Director of Agriculture has asked to improve the supply position of improved seeds, green manures and other organic manures. As regards pesticides and insecticides suitable action is being taken in consultation with the Director of Agriculture.

(3) *Loans.*—The Government have already issued orders liberalising loans rules extending the concessions allowed to ryots to obtain loans on the security of joint patta lands in the case of ryotwari and surveyed areas to unsurveyed lands also. It has also been ordered that loans should be granted to lessees and waramdars in unsurveyed areas on furnishing sufficient collateral security. But the above concessions will not apply to transferred areas from the former Travancore-Cochin State till the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1833, and Agriculturists Loans Act are extended to those areas.

(4) *Improved Agricultural Practices.*—Action is being taken in consultation with the Director of Agriculture.

(5) *Higher targets of production.*—Instructions have been issued to fix up definite targets for each group of villages in charge verandas and steps to these buildings and the pathways leading of an Extension Officer, not only in respect of physical resources to be created such as number of irrigation works to be constructed but also in respect of acreage to be benefitted by other improved agricultural practices and techniques. Moreover, separate targets have been fixed for each group of villages in charge of a Gramasevak in respect of all items and the Block Development Officers and District Agricultural Officers concerned have been asked to review critically the work of the Extension workers with reference to the targets fixed and achievements obtained.

(6) *Short-term crops.*—Action is being taken in consultation with the Director of Agriculture.

(7) *Reduction of consumption of rice.*—A Conference of the Heads of Departments supplying food in Government Institutions was held on the 6th December 1957 to discuss the food situation. The necessity for reducing the consumption of rice in such institutions by substituting wheat was emphasised in the Conference. As a result of the above deliberations, orders have already been issued to reduce rice portion of diet by one ounce to the labouring and non-labouring convicts of the 'C' class prisoners confined in Central Jails, Salem and Cuddalore. Issue of 10 oz. of rice and 10 oz. of wheat per head per diem instead of 20 oz. of rice per head per diem to the inmates of the After Care Home for Males, Madras, as an experimental measure for a period of three months has also been ordered.

Another Conference was also held by the Minister for Home with certain representatives of the Hotel Proprietors' Association and the Catering Department of the Southern Railways. The

necessity for reducing the consumption of rice to meet the present shortage of rice was emphasised in the Conference. The Hotel Proprietors and the Catering Establishments were therefore requested to try all avenues of reducing consumption of rice by the people, by popularising wheat dishes and reducing the rice content of the food, etc.

The Public have also been requested through a Press Note to co-operate with the Government in the matter of increasing food production by cultivating paddy, millets, and other food crops like potatoes, sweet-potatoes, bananas and vegetables to the maximum extent possible and by increasing production of more of animal products like eggs, milk and fish. The public have also been advised to change food habits as long-term measures both from nutritional and economic point of view by including in their diet more of wheat, ragi, vegetables, fruits, etc.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 453 asked by Sri S. Lazar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 29th March 1958, page 209 supra.]

FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE STATE.

The price of paddy and rice in this State began to rise from March 1956. In order to arrest the above upward trend in price, a scheme for selling rice to consumers through fair price shops at controlled rates was introduced by the Government. Under this scheme, rice was supplied by the Government of India at Rs. 16·00 per maund ex-Railway stations at important centres, and the fair price shops sold the rice to the consumers at prices fixed by the Collector. In all, about 2,000 fair price shops were functioning in this State till about the beginning of February 1957. Early in February 1957, the Government of India anticipated a downward trend in prices, following the samba harvest and therefore considered that there was no need to maintain the fair price shops for about four to five months and that the stocks available could, with advantage, be conserved for use during the lean months. The prices, however, did not go down as expected and the fair price shops had to be continued particularly in the large non-agricultural areas like Madras City, Coimbatore, etc. The offtake from the fair price shops had been steady during December 1956 and January 1957. There was reduced offtake during the months of February to May 1957 which was due to availability of stocks just after the main harvest. The offtake continued to increase from June 1957. Till 1st October 1957, two Madras measures of rice per adult per day in Madras City and other urban areas and one Madras measure of rice in other places were being issued through the fair price shops. As the supply position of rice became difficult, the Government of India expressed inability to give rice for issue through fair price